McNeil Canyon Elementary

Magpie

December 14, 2018

Volunteer Opportunities

- Help in your child's classroom
- Help with after school Skiing beginning in Jan. (depending on snow conditions)
- Help with after school Skating beginning in Jan. (depending on ice conditions)

Mini-Workshops

Mini-Workshops will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 18th, from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Thank you to everyone who is conducting a workshop. It is always great fun for the kids. Parents who haven't signed up to lead a workshop are always welcome to join us and help out.

Pajama Day

Join the fun! Wear your PJ's and bring your favorite stuffed animal on Thursday, Dec. 20th. Please be sure your PJ's are appropriate for school and will keep you warm enough.

Celebration on Thursday

On Thursday, Dec. 20th, there will be a school-wide celebration from 1:15 – 2:00 pm in the gym. Students will be eating gingerbread cookies they will make earlier. We need some donations to help decorate our cookies that day so we are asking the following classes to bring something:

5th Grade – 1 can of white frosting

1st Grade – small decorations for gingerbread men such as:
raisins, M&M's, Skittles, red hots, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips, etc. We have plenty of sprinkles.

Happy Holidays!

Dec. 21st is an Inservice/Work Day for staff and marks the end of Second Quarter. There will be NO SCHOOL for students from Dec. 21st through Jan. 7th due to the Christmas Holiday. Classes will resume on Monday, Jan. 7th, 2019. We hope you and your family have a peaceful, restful, and joyous holiday!

After-School Maker's Club

When we return from Christmas Break, we will begin our 2nd-6th grade after-school Maker's Club on Wednesday, January 9th.

A Maker's Club or Maker Space is a creative outlet for kids and adults to make, learn, explore, and share. Some activities are high tech, while others are no tech. Students will have opportunities to explore both during this after school club. Some of the topics and activities we will explore are robotics, lego zipline, KNEX design, coding, circuitry and Makey Makeys, 3D design and printing, and more! Students that have participated in the after school club in previous years will find some of the same activities, along with some new ones. However, there's no limit to the creative capacity of the projects and students will find they are able to challenge themselves further with a project they already participated in.

Permission slips for Maker's Club are available in the front office. – Spaces are officially full. Try again next year!

Forensics Team

McNeil Canyon extracurricular **Forensics** for grades 4-6 will run **Thursdays after school** and **Tuesdays during recess** beginning 1/15/19. After school practices are **Thursdays, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/14, and 2/28**. There may be additional after school practices if the group needs them. We are working toward personal improvement in public speaking or performances. Students may perform at the McNeil Talent Show, February 22, 2019, and will be expected to participate in the KPBSD Forensics Competition at Tustemena Elementary School on **Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**

Practices will begin after school at 3:00 pm. This will be an intense practice time. Students will be presented with some acting workshops to improve performance skills, literature research to pick a piece that suits them and memorization tips. Performances can be solo, with one partner or many partners. We will work with rubrics to help improve dramatic techniques. Frequent participation is essential due to the limited time available to prepare for the KPBSD Forensics Competition. **Permission slips are available at the front office**.

After School Cross Country Skiing and Ice Skating

After Winter Break, we are hoping to start our Cross Country Skiing and Ice Skating programs. Mondays for Cross Country skiing and Wednesdays for Ice Skating. We need parent helpers for both programs. For Cross skiing, the number of helpers we have will determine how many skiers we can have.

We still need a parent who can help with snack during ice-skating. This would be every Wednesday starting January 9th (depending on ice conditions) and continuing until March 6th (weather dependent). Please contact Anne at alove@kpbsd.k12.ak.us or call the school office if you can help with either of these things. **Permission slips are available at front office**.

Helping Others

Thanks to everyone for your generous donations of gloves, hats, packaged socks, and reusable water bottles to benefit local homeless children. The District Homeless Liaison will be picking them up for distribution. Bean Soup kits will be assembled on Monday and delivered to the **Homer Food Bank** next week. We are still collecting non-perishable food for **Share the Spirit** to use in the holiday food and gift baskets they provide to local area residents in need. Canned items or other non-perishable food can be brought to school and placed in the boxes under the Christmas tree.

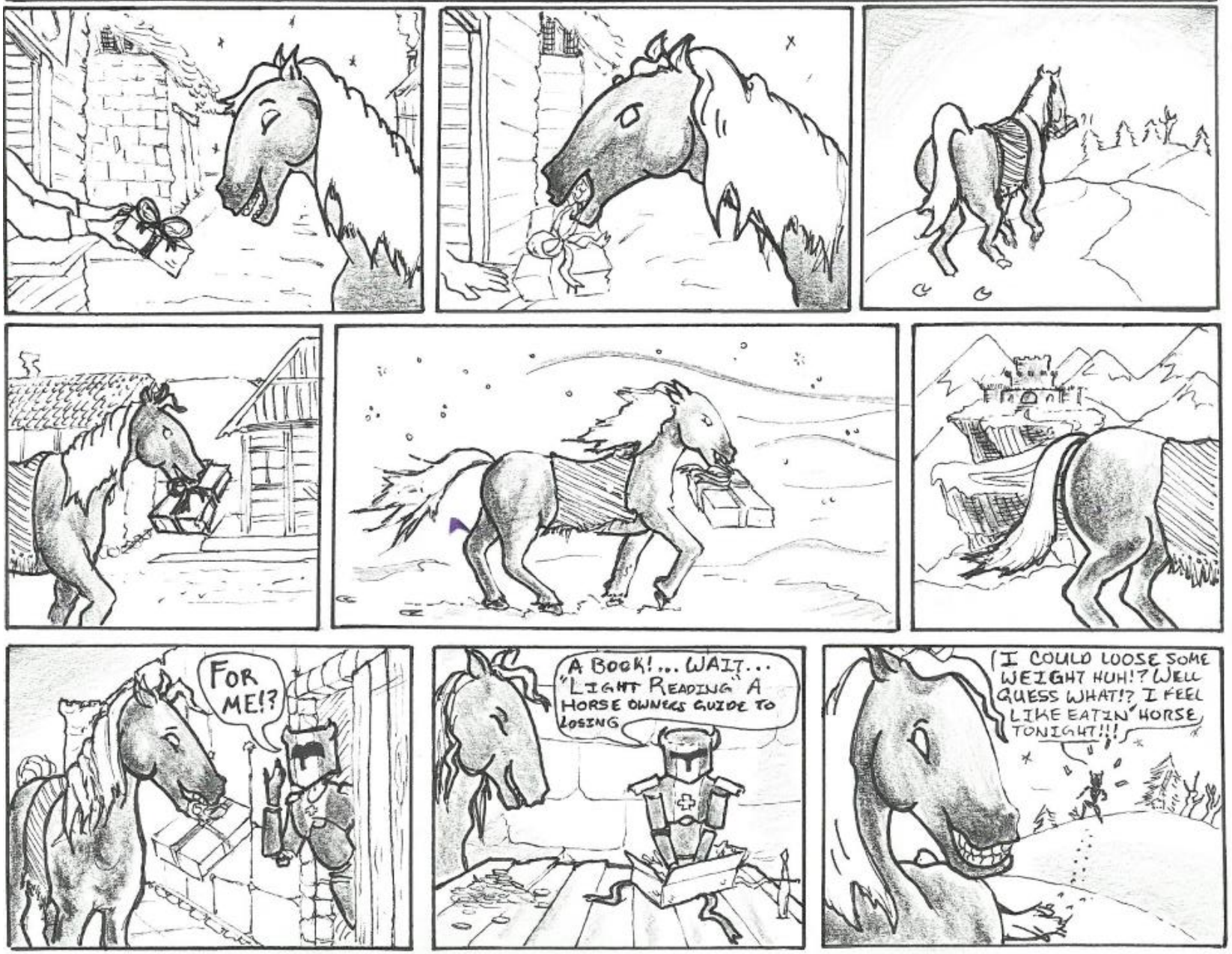
Amazon Smile

Have you ever heard of Amazon Smile? You shop, Amazon gives. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. (Pick McNeil Canyon Elementary School Community Council.) Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support McNeil Canyon Elementary by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

12-13-18

DARK KNIGHT WHITE STRIPE

BY COLTEN JOHNSON #5



By: Alexandra Reutov
Grade: 2